

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJ: CIVAIR - ITALIAN CHARTER POLICY

1. CIVILAVIA CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF GOI CHARTER POLICY AT DIRECTION OF MINISTER TRANSPORT AND CIVIL AVIATION MARTINELLI. REVIEW TRIGGERED: (A) BY LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR TO MARTINELLI REQUESTING GOI CONTINUATION OF SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS FOR 1976 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS AND APPROVAL OF TRAVEL GROUP CHARTERS (TGC) AND SPECIAL EVENT CHARTERS (SEC); AND (B) BY RECENT ECAC ACTIVITY RE BILATERAL CHARTER AGREEMENTS WITH USG.

2. UPON LEARNING OF CHARTER POLICY REVIEW, EMBOFF URGED CIVILAVIA TO COMPLETE ITS STUDY AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS IN TIME TO HAVE IMPACT ON 1976 SEASON, SINCE CARRIERS ARE ALREADY PLANNING AIRCRAFT USAGE AND TRAVE AGENTS ARRANGING TOURS.

3. ALITALIAN WILL OF COURSE HAVE SIGNIFICANT INPUT INTO CHARTER POLICY REVIEW. WITH RECENT SALE OF TWO DC-8/62S, ALITALIA WILL HAVE EVEN FEWER AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE FOR NORTH ATLANTIC CHARTER MARKET THAN IN 1975. EMBASSY BELIEVES THERE IS SOME CHANCE THAT CIVILAVIA WILL AGREE TO PERMIT SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS IN 1976, UNLESS CAB MOVES TO ELIMINATE AFFINITY CHARTERS, BUT HAS NO READING YET ON TGC AND SEC.VOLPE

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